



TEXAS HOLIDAY

During the first two weeks in April, two Adamsons, one Veitch, and four Stallcups visited Aransas, Laguna Atascosa and Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuges in south Texas. We feel that some of the members might like to know about the wonderful receptions we were accorded by Julian Howard, who is in charge at Aransas, and Luther Goldman of San Benito.

We arrived at the Aransas gate about two hours after closing time and were reluctantly preparing to leave when Mr. Howard drove up behind us. He not only admitted us, but graciously escorted us to the Mustang Tower where we stood and watched a pair of Whooping Cranes fly within 40 or 50 yards of us. Never has that tower rung with such screams of ecstasy! Also had Roseate Spoonbills, White Ibis, Black Skimmers, Royal Terns, Gull-billed Terns, etc.

Mr. Luther Goldman of San Benito was unable to escort us to Laguna Atascosa and Santa Ana, but helped us immeasurably by furnishing keys, drawing maps and making many suggestions of ways to get the most out of our short stay.

We observed 207 species in the two week period — including such delectables as Scissor-tailed and Kiskadee Flycatchers, Couch's Kingbird, Green Jays, Tricolored Heron, Reddish Egret, Little Blue Heron, Fulvous and Black-bellied Tree Ducks, Caracara, Sharpe Seedeater, Anhinga, Red-billed Pigeon, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Red-eyed Cowbird, and Chachalaca. We feel that much of the success of our trip was due to the help of Mr. Howard and Mr. Goldman. All they ask in return for this help is for people to follow a few simple logical rules, and leave things in as good shape as they found them.

— LEE STALLCUP

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome the following: from Berkeley, Mrs. Chester S. Chard, John C. Fitzpatrick, Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Rogers, John S. Willis; from Fairfax, Mrs. Gertrude Trumble; from Hayward, Herbert F. Allen; from Niles, Mrs. W. F. Lamoreux; from Oakland, Mrs. G. M. Booker, Glenn Burghardt, Mr. & Mrs. Warner Clark, Mrs. Gertrude E. Morrow, Mrs. Del C. Wininger; from San Anselmo, Mrs. Harold B. Watkin; from San Francisco, Aubrey Drury; from San Geronimo, Mr. & Mrs. Maurice E. Burke; from San Rafael, Mr. & Mrs. John Kertis; from Sausalito, Norman M. Hodgkin.

— MRS. FRANK A. SCOTT, *Membership Chairman.*

APRIL TRIP TO BAY FARM ISLAND AND MILLS COLLEGE

At 7:00 a.m. on April 16 about 20 persons gathered at the usual meeting place in Alameda for a field trip to see shorebirds at Bay Farm Island, some coming from as far away as Niles. Just as the group was assembling, an unexpected detour into nearby Washington Park was made when Alan Craig announced that there was a male Hooded Oriole there. Most of the group saw it, as it seemed to be localized in trees near the several palms in the park. In the usual shorebird areas along Doolittle Road and at the mouth of San Leandro Bay and at the west end of Bay Farm Island we encountered a cool north wind and partly cloudy skies, and also a few late-arriving birders (one from Sacramento). Two Black Brant were on shore and swam out into the bay near the Alameda — Bay Farm Island bridge when we approached; and near the same place there were single Horned and Eared Grebes, each in nearly full breeding plumage. Despite reduction in numbers from a few years ago, Bay Farm Island is still an excellent place to see shorebirds, as the estimated numbers that we saw indicate (see list below).

Since the tide was well out by 11 a.m. and the shorebirds thus mostly far away, the trip was shifted to the Mills College campus, at the base of the Oakland hills. Although some participants dropped out, there were about 6 or 8 others added here. After inspecting Bush-tit and Chestnut-backed Chickadee nests in the central part of the campus, we lunched in a grassy hillside overlooking Lake Aliso, a woodland-bordered pond, then walked over and around the oak woodland area on Pine Top in the east part of the campus, where a pair of Black-headed Grosbeaks and a Junco's nest with 4 eggs were the greatest attractions. Black Phoebe and Allen Hummingbirds nests were seen later near college buildings.

The following 86 species were found on the combined trip at both localities: Horned Grebe 1, Eared Grebe 1, Western Grebe 2, Pied-billed Grebe 1, Double-crested Cormorant 50, Great Blue Heron 1, American Egret 3, Black Brant 2, Mallard 2, Baldpate 3, Pintail 1, Shoveller 8, Canvas-back 2, Lesser Scaup 15, American Golden-eye 1, White-winged Scoter 1, Surf Scoter 10, Ruddy Duck 1, Red-breasted Merganser 3, Turkey Vulture 1, Red-tailed Hawk 3, Sparrow Hawk 2, Calif. Quail, Coot 15, Ringed (Semipalmated) Plover 70, Killdeer 4, Black-bellied Plover 100, Hudsonian Curlew 5, Willet 50, Greater Yellow-legs 6, Least Sandpiper, Red-backed Sandpiper 2000, Dowitcher 400, Western Sandpiper 5000, Marbled Godwit 40, Sanderling 9, Avocet 10, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull 20, Herring Gull 1, California Gull 30, Ring-billed Gull 15, Forster Tern 150, Caspian Tern 40, Mourning Dove 4, White-throated Swift 1, Anna Hummingbird 3, Allen Hummingbird 4 (inc. nest and 2 young), Black Phoebe 2, Western Flycatcher 2, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee 1, Plain Titmouse 1, Bush-tit 4 (2 nests), Wren-tit 2, Robin, Hermit Thrush 2, Water Pipit, Cedar Wax-wing 50, Loggerhead Shrike 1, Hutton Vireo 1, Warbling Vireo 3, Orange-crowned Warbler 1, Audubon Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Hooded Oriole, Brewer Blackbird 2, Cowbird 2, Black-headed Grosbeak 2, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Lesser (Green-backed) Goldfinch 2, Spotted Towhee 3, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow.

— HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Leader and Historian*.

APRIL TRIP TO ALUM ROCK PARK AND CALAVERAS RESERVOIR

At 9:30 on Sunday, April 24, a group of 21 met at Alum Rock Park east of San Jose. The weather was partly cloudy but cleared up in the afternoon. From the Junior Museum we went north along the horse trail, then up to Eagle Rock Ranch. Just below Eagle Rock we had good views of a Canyon Wren. Coming back down the hill we found a Lazuli Bunting in a field of yellow mustard. During lunch we found a Plain Titmouse nesting, also a Nuttall Woodpecker, and a Myrtle Warbler with some Audubons. After lunch we headed for Calaveras Reservoir. En route a Lincoln Sparrow and a Macgillivray Warbler were found. At the reservoir in Osprey with a fish in its talons was seen in company with some Turkey Vultures, and later several Caspian Terns were found. Peter Veitch acted as co-leader. Seventy-eight species were recorded, as follows: Pied-billed Grebe, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover (near park), Long-billed Curlew (near park), Caspian Tern, Mourning Dove, White-throated Swift, Anna Hummingbird, Allen Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, California Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Nuttall Woodpecker (nesting), Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe (nesting), Say Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Steller Jay, Scrub Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, Raven, Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee (nesting), Plain Titmouse (nesting), Bush-tit (nesting), White-breasted Nuthatch, Wren-tit, House Wren, Bewick Wren, Canyon Wren, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Audubon Warbler, Macgillivray Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Bullock Oriole, Brewer Blackbird, Cowbird, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak (nesting), Lazuli Bunting, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Lawrence Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

— CHARLES HINES, *Leader and Historian*.

AUDUBON CAMP OF CALIFORNIA. The camp will be held again this summer at Sugar Bowl Lodge in the High Sierra near Donner Summit. Five sessions will be held: June 26—July 9; July 10 - 23; July 24—August 6; August 7 - 20; and August 21—September 3. The fee this year will be \$95. For further information contact the California Office of the National Audubon Society at the address on the back page. For information about the 6 half-camperships to be awarded by the Golden Gate Audubon Society see the March GULL, page 11.

OBSERVATIONS: on Cooper Society boat trip off Monterey, Apr. 23, Black-footed Albatross 12-15, Sooty Shearwater 10,000; Pink-footed Shearwater 2; Rhinoceros Auklet 5 (Howard L. Cogswell); on Mills College boat trip to SE Farallon Is., Apr. 30: Sooty Shearwater 50,000, Pink-footed Shearwater 15, Black-footed Albatross 1, Tufted Puffin 15, Cassin Auklets—scores, Rhinoceros Auklets—several (H. L. C.). At St. Mary's College: Green Heron, May 5; Caspian Tern (3), Apr. 21-25; Western Flycatcher, nesting, Apr. 25; Ash-throated Flycatcher, Apr. 25; House Wren, Apr. 25; Western Tanager, Apr. 21 (A. S. Campbell). Mt. Tamalpais: Purple Martin, Apr. 23 (A. L. Curl).

JUNE MEETING

The 453rd regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held in the Assembly Room of the Main Library in San Francisco (Larkin and McAllister Sts.) on Thursday, June 9, at 7:30 p.m. Miss Jacqueline Watkins of the Berkeley Recreation Department will show her color slides of Alaska. Miss Watkins is much in demand as a speaker, especially among the out-of-doors enthusiasts. Her interest in plants, animals, and conservation makes her talk much more than a travelogue. Guests are always welcome.

— MRS. BUDD J. SMITH, *Program Chairman*.

JUNE FIELD TRIPS

On Sunday, June 12, to BODEGA BAY and the lower part of the RUSSIAN RIVER, where in relatively cool summer weather there are to be found a variety of breeding birds of field, streamside, and forest habitats. Nesting Ospreys and White-tailed Kites are likely, and there is a chance that Tufted Puffins can be seen on shore at the point where it is planned to eat lunch. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the village of Valley Ford, on State Highway 1 between Tomales and Bodega. The fastest route from San Francisco or the East Bay is northward on US-Route 101 to Petaluma, thence left (at the third stop-light for 8½ miles on the road toward Tomales, then right for 10 miles through Two Rock and Bloomfield to Valley Ford. A more scenic but longer route is via Route 1 northward from Stinson Beach in southern Marin County. Bring binoculars, telescope, lunch, and interested friends. The trip will involve little walking and much driving on secondary roads. Leader, Gordon L. Bolander, of Santa Rosa.

On Saturday, June 25, to GOLDEN GATE PARK, San Francisco. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at 43rd and Fulton Streets, near the Chain of Lakes, which point can be reached by the no. 5 line from downtown. The various lakes and wooded parts of the park have many summer birds, and by starting early we will be ahead of the crowds. Bring binoculars, interested friends, and lunch if desired. Nesting Pigeon Guillemots north of the Cliff House or at Land's End can be seen by the those who wish to go there afterward. Leader, Charles Hines.

— HOWARD L. COGSWELL, *Field Trips Chairman*.

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Established January 25, 1917

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Changes of Address should be sent to the Membership Chairman; claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman.

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